

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 8, 10-15, 17-18, 20, 22 and 25-26 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, 7, 17, 23 and 24 are canceled, claims 1, 8, 10, 14 and 18 are amended and claims 25-26 are added. No new matter is added

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Nguyen at the interview held November 4, 2004 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution, including the recitation of the "crimp" connection feature of previously presented claims 21 and 24 and the "control" features of claims 7 and 17; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection and discussions conducted during the personal interview. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Giard and claims 4, 10-15, 17, 18, 20 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Giard in view of Park. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the November 4 personal interview, independent claims 1 and 14 are amended to clarify the "crimp" connection feature originally presented in claims 21 and 23-24. These features are now incorporated into independent claims 1 and 14, respectively.

The subject matter of claims 7 and 17 are also incorporated into independent claims 1 and 14, respectively.

As discussed during the personal interview, neither Giard nor Park provide a "crimp" connection of one end of a leaf spring to a mounting element of a metering blade assembly while a second end secures the leaf spring in a drum maintenance unit. See Figs. 2, 3 and 7 and paragraphs [0030] and [0033]. Giard uses an embedded connection and Park has no such leaf spring. Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 14 and claims dependent therefrom define over the applied art. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Moreover, independent claims 1 and 14 also define over the art of record, including U.S. Patent No. 3,585,966 to Hill; U.S. Patent No. 5,808,645 to Reeves; and U.S. Patent No. 5,717,987 to Fromm mentioned during the personal interview. Hill is not directed to a metering blade assembly and fails to provide a "crimp" connection. Reeves' metering blade includes a preload spring 49 connected by element 91, which is not a crimp connection. Fromm includes first and second holders 130,132 connected to spring 138 to support a rubber blade against a metering roll (Fig. 3). Fromm has no crimp connection.

New claims 25-26 are added clarifying the static shield feature (Fig. 5, paragraph [0037]). Claims 25-26 depend from allowable base claims 1 and 14 and thus are also allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Stephen P. Catlin
Registration No. 36,101

JAO:SPC/fpw

Date: November 5, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--